GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1142
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2015
Flights from Shimla Airport
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to connect capitals of the States with International airports;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) whether Shimla is also included in the said plan of the Government and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is true that no airline is operating flights to and from Shimla airport for the past few years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor along with the time by which the said airport is likely to be operational again?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) : No, Madam. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) & (c) : Do not arise.

(d) & (e): No scheduled airline is operating from Shimla airport presently due to various operational, topographical and security constraints including reduction in basic strip of runway length due to hilly terrain, inadequate runway end-safety area, non-availability of refuelling facilities, absence of Viability Gap funding by the State Government, etc. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has completed runway re-carpeting work and has undertaken widening of runway including prevention of soil erosion for operation of ATR-42 type of aircrafts. However, it is upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand, commercial viability,
provision of Viability Gap Funding by the State Government, etc.

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